(c) whether the Department of Posts plans to invest Rs. 12,000 crore during the Eleventh Five Year Plan including a plan to computerize and connect its 1.5 lakh post offices across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Recognizing the importance of technology in enabling India Post to achieve a higher degree of competitiveness and improve efficiency, the Department of Post has provided computers in 8163 Post Offices throughout the country as part of a Tenth Plan programme. The Department has formulated proposals for computerizing and networking a much larger number of Post Offices throughout the country as part of its Eleventh Plan activities. The Eleventh Plan outlay for induction and upgradation of technology in the postal network has not yet been finalized.

Semi-conductor policy

1818. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that semi-conductor policy has been delayed in view of differences between Ministry of Finance and his Ministry on subsidy component;

(b) whether it is also a fact that globally 30 percent subsidy is provided on semi-conductor project cost; and

(c) whether there is any probability that without subsidy, viability of the project is likely to be affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government has accorded approval to the Special Incentive Package Scheme to attract investments for setting up Semi conductor Fabrication and other micro and nano technology manufacture industries in India. The incentive would be 20% of the capital expenditure if the units are set up in the Special Economic Zones (SEZ). For units set up outside SEZ, the

incentive would be 25% of the capital expenditure plus exemption from countervailing Duty (CVD). 'Fab units' with threshold Net Present Value (NPV) investment of Rs. 2500 crore would be covered by the Special Incentive Package Scheme. For other units in the eco-system, there would be a threshold NPV investment of Rs. 1000 crore. The details to implement the scheme are being finalized.

Semi-conductor units are given similar benefits in other countries. The Special Incentive Package Scheme has been accorded approval with a view to make such units viable.

Post offices in Punjab

1819. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, other than extra-departmental ones in the State of Punjab, district-wise, as on 31st December, 2006;

(b) the number out of them which have been fully computerized and those partially computerized, district-wise; and

(c) what are the plans for further computerization of post offices in the State, district-wise, during the year 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The number of departmental post offices in the State of Punjab is 791, as on 31st December, 2006. Out of these post offices, 91 post offices are fully computerized and 129 post offices are partially computerized. District-wise details of the number of departmental post offices, number of such post offices fully computerized and number of such post offices partially computerized, are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(c) Targets for the year 2007-08 have not yet been set, as they are set in the beginning of the financial year.